

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 24th December 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bharat Shramajivi"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Gramvartá Prakashiká"	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....	14th December 1881.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patriká"	Calcutta	700	12th ditto.
6	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	23rd ditto.
7	"Bharat Bandhu"	Ditto	.....	20th ditto.
8	"Bharat Mihir"	Mymensing	671	3th ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwan Sanjivani"	Burdwan	296	
11	"Charuvartá"	Sherepore, Mymensing	.....	12th ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakash"	Dacca	350	18th ditto.
13	"Dut"	Calcutta	.....
14	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	23rd ditto.
15	"Halisahar Prakashiká"	Calcutta	.....	17th ditto.
16	"Hindu Ranjika"	Beauleah, Rajsháhye...	200	21st ditto.
17	"Medini"	Midnapore	.....	17th ditto.
18	"Murshidabad Patriká"	Berhampore	487	
19	"Murshidabad Pratini/hi"	Ditto	.....
20	"Navavibhakar"	Calcutta	850	19th ditto.
21	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....	11th ditto.
22	"Pratikar"	Berhampore	275	
23	"Rajshahye Samvad"	Beauleah	.....
24	"Rungpore Dik Prakash"	Kakinia, Rungpore	250	22nd ditto.
25	"Sadharani"	Chinsurah	500	18th ditto.
26	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	14th ditto.
27	"Som Prakash"	Changripottá, 24-Perghs.	.....	19th ditto.
28	"Sudhakar"	Mymensing	.....
29	"Sulabha Samachar"	Calcutta	4,000	17th ditto.
30	"Srihatta Prakash"	Sylhet	440	
31	"Tripura Vartavaha"	Commillah	.....	3rd & 10th December 1881.
<i>Daily.</i>				
32	"Samvad Prabhakar"	Calcutta	700	16th to 20th December 1881.
33	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	19th to 21st ditto.
34	"Samachar Chandrika"	Ditto	625	19th to 22nd ditto.
35	"Banga Vidya Prakashiká"	Ditto	500	19th to 21st ditto.
36	"Prabhati"	Ditto	.....	19th to 24th ditto.
37	"Samachar Sudahbarsan"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	17th December 1881.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
49	"Behar Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	15th ditto.
40	"Bharat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	15th ditto.
41	"Sar Sudhanidhi"	Ditto	200	19th ditto.
42	"Uchit Baktá"	Ditto	.....	17th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Jam-Jahan-numa"	Ditto	250	16th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
44	"Akhbar-i-Darussaltanat"	Ditto	.....
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
45	"Assam Vilasini"	Sibsagar	.....
URIYA.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
46	"Utkal Dipika"	Cuttack	.....

POLITICAL.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
December 12th, 1881.

WE extract the following observations from an article in the *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 12th December :—
Despotic Government in India re-acting on Government in England. Despotic government in India has borne its natural fruit. The long course of oppression in which British officials have indulged at the expense of the people of this country has begun to prove injurious to the interests of the British nation itself. It is, to use a native saying, as if a person excavated a tank and got himself drowned in it. The eyes of the British public were first opened to the real state of matters during the last administration of the late Lord Beaconsfield, when the Ministry embarked upon a series of public measures threatening the liberties enjoyed by the nation under the constitution. It was now that the people made a grand effort, and transferred power from the Conservatives to the Liberals. But the British throne has lost its former virtues and its former dignity, and has now fallen to the position of the throne of Delhi. The officers who approach it grow despotic and become demoralized. This will be evident if one thinks of the change which has taken place in the views of the Liberal leaders since they came in contact with the throne and returned to power. No one could even dream, that under the administration of Mr. Gladstone, Ireland would be brought to such a pass, or that, in India, the cotton duties would be repealed, and that in lieu thereof a new tax would be imposed upon the people; and yet these acts of injustice are all being perpetrated, and will probably go on increasing. Now it is chiefly the Judges and Magistrates in this country who have made Government so despotic. Mr. O'Donnell now realizes the truth of this remark. The reply of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab to the memorial made to him by the European residents of Simla, on the subject of the local municipal administration, may also be referred to as a case in point. The tone of the communication from the Punjab Government has taken the memorialists quite by surprise, and yet there is very little in it to cause surprise. It is the indulgent support of these Europeans which has made the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab and other officials elsewhere so despotic, and they would have only themselves to thank if the serpent they have so gently nursed should now turn against and bite them. The action of the Punjab Government has not altogether displeased us. If the authorities would only trample under foot Englishmen and natives alike, we would gladly suffer ourselves to be treated in this wise.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

TRIPURA VARTAVAHA,
December 3rd, 1881.

2. The *Tripurá Vártávaha*, of the 3rd December, received on the 16th instant, dwells upon the vague and complicated character of the present stamp law. Considerable difficulty is experienced in interpreting its provisions. Even legal practitioners cannot always confidently and correctly inform a person as to the value of stamps that would be required for any particular document. Sub-registrars also feel this difficulty. The decisions of the Board of Revenue on any point connected with the stamp law are not unoften pronounced erroneous by the courts. This indeed is a very unsatisfactory state of things, which is aggravated by the orders of Government, directing the imposition of heavy fines in all cases in which under-stamped documents are found to have been used. It is exceedingly desirable that the provisions of the stamp law should be as clearly worded as possible. Until this is done, it is clearly the duty of Government to rule that, if in any case it is found that any under-stamped document has been used, the party using it shall be allowed to affix stamps of the required value. The writer then proceeds to point out that the stamp fees charged in certain cases

are unduly high. It is, for instance, necessary that the *sunnud* appointing a tehsildar should bear stamps to the value of Rs. 15. The highest amount, however, that could reasonably be charged in this case should not be more than Rs. 2.

3. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 12th December, is exceedingly thankful to Lord Ripon and the present Liberal Ministry for their determination to repeal the Vernacular Press Act. The introduction of the Seditious Publications Bill into the Legislative Council is a proof of the moral courage and of the love of justice which characterise the Liberal party. It now behoves them to repeal the Arms Act and the License-tax.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
December 12th, 1881.

4. The same paper observes, in reference to the rumoured early retirement of Sir Ashley Eden, that with his departure from this country will his most cherished public measures be reversed. These are—(1) the outstill system, (2) the cruel treatment of prisoners in the jails, (3) his schemes of indirect taxation, and (4) the Vernacular Press Act.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

5. We extract the following observations from an editorial paragraph in the same paper:—The European jury of Allahabad High Court. The Jury. Allahabad excel, it would seem, the Cossytollah jury of Calcutta in every respect. The former acquit almost every European undergoing trial before them. The manner in which two recent cases have been disposed of by the Allahabad High Court really causes surprise. Three European soldiers were brought up before Mr. Justice Tyrrell, charged with murder, and, as is usual in such cases, all three were acquitted. The Judge desired their acquittal, and the jury acted accordingly. The evidence adduced clearly proved their guilt, but evidence is nothing before a white skin.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

6. The *Cháru Vártá*, of the 12th December, devotes two long articles to the subject of existing grievances of the people of India. The editor notices with regret and disappointment that the Liberal leaders have, since their return to power, ceased to take that active interest in the affairs of this country which they evinced before the last general elections took place. All hope now centres in Lord Ripon, whose action during the short time he has been in India has exceedingly gratified the people. They expect much from him.

CHARU VARTA.
December 12th, 1881.

7. The *Bhárat Míhir*, of the 13th December, thus refers to the introduction into the Indian Legislative Council of the Bill to repeal the Vernacular Press Act:—The fact that the *Bhárat Míhir* is about to be exempted from the operation of the Vernacular Press Act during the benign rule of Lord Ripon will be always remembered by us. Without any sufficient cause did Lord Lytton distrust us. We are not, and cannot be, disloyal. For a long time to come our interests will remain bound up with those of the British Government. That sitting at the feet of the British nation, we may learn the lessons of political science, and, profiting by their example, may gradually be enabled to rise to the position of men, is our highest aim and aspiration. Lord Lytton did not understand this, and, construing our free utterances as treason, in one day passed the Vernacular Press Act. But what is the good of awaking the memory of the past? For the gracious privilege that has now been conferred upon us, we shall remain ever grateful to the present Government. The people get disappointed when Government distrusts them. Confidence begets firm allegiance.

BHARAT MIHIR,
December 13th, 1881.

BHARAT MIBIR,
December 13th, 1881.

8. The same paper deprecates the proposal, which is said to be in favour with Government, to impose an income-tax upon the people of this country.

An Income-Tax.

If it is really carried out, Government will soon lose all the confidence which it has secured by its undoing of most of the unpopular acts of the late administration. Continuance in the important offices filled by Lord Ripon and Major Baring respectively must indeed appear quite unprofitable if, at the mere beck of the Secretary of State, they were compelled to abandon their own independent views. Why should they continue to bear the burden of office if, after undertaking to promote the interests of India, they were obliged by pressure from superior authority to forsake those interests? If, however, the repeal of the cotton duties be really necessary to the continuance in power of the present Ministry, let the loss of revenue which will result from that measure be made good by a reduction of public expenditure, for which there is ample room in different directions.

BHARAT M HIR.

9. The same paper is exceedingly gratified to find that Lord Ripon has directed his attention to the subject of primary education. Very little indeed is

Primary education.

done by Government for the education of the masses in this country. It was at one time estimated by Sir J. P. Grant that in Bengal the cost of primary education should at least be a lakh of rupees for every district. Sir George Campbell determined to expend 20 lakhs for this purpose, at a time when the state of the finances was far from flourishing. The amount of Government grant for primary education is, however, now limited to the insignificant sum of five lakhs of rupees, while double this amount is annually expended for the purpose of enabling the chief officials of Government to make sojournings in the hills. The editor then proceeds to observe that the education imparted in the pathsalas should be of better quality, embracing a general acquaintance with language and literature, and a knowledge of the outlines of history, geography, and of the elements of arithmetic. This would require the appointment to the pathsalas of a body of efficient and qualified gurus. There should be established a number of guru training schools, in order that a supply of qualified gurus might be kept up.

SAHACHAR,
December 14th, 1881.

10. The *Sahachar*, of the 14th December, is thankful to the Liberal Government for the introduction into the Indian Legislative Council of the Seditious Publications Bill. The Editor dwells upon the

The contemplated repeal of the Vernacular Press Act.

loyalty of native newspapers, and the inutility of the Vernacular Press Act.

SAHACHAR.

11. The same paper cordially approves of the sentiments contained in the speech made by Sir Ashley Eden on the occasion of opening the Maharajah's College at Burdwan. The Editor desires the

Sir Ashley Eden on High Education.

spread of primary education, but this result should not be achieved at the expense of high education.

SAHACHAR.

12. The same paper contains a long editorial on the inequitable character of the agitation which is being

The cotton duties.

made by the merchants of Manchester for the repeal of the Indian cotton duties. The Editor regrets that Lord Hartington has so far yielded to their persuasions as to declare himself in favour of the complete repeal of these duties.

SAHACHAR.

13. The same paper dwells upon the extremely one-sided character of the Assam Emigration Bill now before the Indian Legislative Council. There was no

The Assam Emigration Bill.

one in the Council to represent the interests of the immigrants.

14. The *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 14th December, notices with disappointment that, in utter disregard of the wishes of the inhabitants, Government has sanctioned a fresh survey of the lands in the

A survey of the lands in the Chittagong district.

Chittagong district. The Editor has repeatedly dwelt upon the disadvantages and the harassment which a survey brings upon the people, and remarks with bitterness that, by according his sanction to this measure, Sir Ashley Eden has shown that his action has been worthy of the person who advocated the passing of the Vernacular Press Act, and has since introduced the outstill system into Bengal. A fresh survey of these lands will practically mean the beggaring of the inhabitants of Chittagong, every one of whom, be he rich or poor, possesses some plot of land which he can call his own.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI
December 14th, 1881.

15. The same paper dwells upon the advantages that are likely to be secured by the construction of a railway line from Daudkandi to Akyab, *viâ* Chittagong, and hopes Government will receive the scheme with favour.

A railway from Daudkandi to Chittagong.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI.

16. The *Sulaba Samáchár*, of the 17th December, is grateful to Lord Ripon and the Liberal Government for deciding upon the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act, and thus vindicating the loyalty of native newspapers.

The contemplated repeal of the Vernacular Press Act.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
December 17th, 1881.

17. The *Halisahar Prakáshiká*, of the 17th December, notices with a feeling of disappointment that Lord Ripon and Major Baring are said to be in favour of imposing an income-tax upon the people of this country. The writer dwells at length upon the disadvantages of direct taxation.

An Income-tax.

HALISAHAR
PRAKASHIKA,
December 17th, 1881.

18. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 18th December, thanks Lord Ripon for deciding upon the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act, and asks His Excellency to proceed next to consider the subject of the repeal of the Arms Act and the License-tax.

The repeal of the Vernacular Press Act.

DACCA PRAKASH,
December 18th, 1881.

19. The same paper condemns the proposal to repeal the cotton duties, and impose an Income-tax in its stead. If it is carried out, Government will lose the confidence of the public.

The cotton duties.
An Income-tax.

DACCA PRAKASH.

20. The same paper remarks, in reference to the subject of the proposed extension of the local jurisdiction of the Dacca Small Cause Court, that there appears to be no necessity for establishing a Court of Small Causes at Naraingunge. It is no hard matter for suitors from that station to come to Dacca. Besides, the number of suits that are instituted there is not very large. The appointment to Naraingunge of a moonsif with power to try all Small Cause Court suits to the value of Rs. 50 will meet the requirements of that station. What is required is that there should be appointed a Small Cause Court Judge to Munshigunge, which is now one of the places where the Judge of the Dacca Small Cause Court holds his court. This officer has now to dispose of all suits instituted in Dacca and Munshigunge, and the work is too much for one man. Considerable inconvenience to the public results from this arrangement. The Editor will resume the subject in a future issue of his paper.

The jurisdiction of the Dacca Small Cause Court.

DACCA PRAKASH.

21. The *Sádháraní*, of the 18th December, remarks that God alone is the friend of the weak. Neither the sovereign nor the patriot helps the weak at all times. Powerful Manchester has obtained its prayer for the repeal of the cotton duties, while weak India has long prayed in vain for the abolition

The cotton duties.

SADHARANI,
December 18th, 1881.

of the License-tax. What one cannot tolerate in the demand of the Lancashire merchants is their talk of the interests of the people of India. The latter are not certainly so foolish as to be unable to perceive the true motives of Manchester.

SADHANANI,
December 18th, 1881.

22. The same paper warns his contemporaries of the Vernacular Press against so early raising a chorus of thanksgiving to Government for repealing the Vernacular Press Act. The repeal of the measure is not yet an accomplished fact. The mere introduction of a Bill into the Legislative Council for this purpose does not justify the feeling of exultation which is being expressed by most native editors.

SOM PRAKASH,
December 19th, 1881.

23. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 19th December, contains a long editorial on the deputation that recently waited upon the Secretary of State on the subject of the repeal of the Indian cotton duties, and the reply given it by Lord Hartington. The cotton duties are indeed doomed, but it is amusing to think of the position in which Lord Hartington found himself placed, when making his reply, by the necessity on the one hand of humouring Manchester, and that of watching the interests of India on the other. But is this governing India for the benefit of her people?

SOM PRAKASH.

24. The same paper, in commenting on the many insanitary conditions of native life, asks Government to introduce sanitary teaching in the pathsalas of Bengal, and frame rules for promoting the healthiness of towns and villages with a view to compel people to observe them.

SOM PRAKASH.

25. The same paper condemns the proposal to introduce an income tax into this country. The people have been reduced to such a state of pecuniary difficulty that they cannot bear further taxation.

SOM PRAKASH.

26. The same paper proves from statistics that for the last few years the number of successful candidates in the middle English scholarship examination has been steadily decreasing from year to year. The cause of this decline is doubtless to be found in the large number of subjects and text-books which the boys are required to go through, and the tough character of the questions which are set at the examination.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
December 19th, 1881.

27. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 19th December, in resuming the subject of the Income-tax, observes that it has no sympathy with the selfish agitation which is being made by Anglo-Indian newspapers against the proposal of imposing an Income-tax. The Editor wishes it to be clearly understood that it is the contemplated repeal of the cotton duties that is objectionable, and this is true, whether an Income-tax is or is not imposed upon the people. The native public would not be altogether displeased to pay an Income-tax if the cotton duties were retained. Direct taxation is not suited to the circumstances of this country. The License-tax is therefore objectionable; but if a direct tax must be put on the people, let the License-tax be repealed, and an Income-tax be imposed in its stead; only care should be taken to make the limit of taxable income sufficiently high.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

28. The same paper objects to the following points in the Assam Emigration Bill:—Section 1 (?), which refers to five years' contracts; section 12, entering into a contract with a labourer sixteen years old; chapter IV, increasing

the powers of the sirdari coolies; sections 70 and 71, examination of coolies by a medical officer appointed by the manager of the tea-garden. The sections should be modified. Section 74, the power of the sirdar coolie; the number of labourers to be recruited by him should be laid down. Clause 4 of section 128 is objectionable. Section 136, relative to the imprisonment of a labourer, should be omitted. Sections 148, 160, 169, 172-75, and 179 are all objectionable. The whole Bill is an extremely one-sided measure.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

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